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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Ref: Docket #98N-1038

Gentlemen:

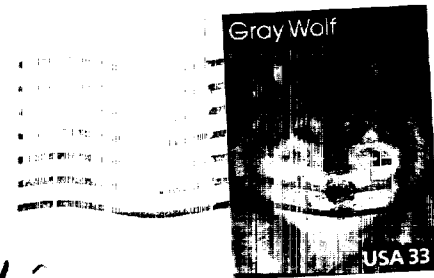
1. Should the wording of the current radiation disclosure statement should be revised?
I feel very strongly that the wording of the current radiation disclosure statement should not be revised. Despite the rulings by the government that irradiated food is safe, there are an increased number of warnings from consumer groups and the scientific community, that the process is unpredictable and dangerous.
 - * Irradiation destroys vitamins and damages the nutritional quality of food.
 - * Scientific studies in numerous lab tests have shown increased tumors, reproductive failures and kidney damage. Why has the FDA ignored these findings?
 - * Nuclear and electron beam irradiation produces toxic by products in food. Ionizing irradiation creates dangerous "free radicals" which react with food components and creates radiolytic products, some of which are toxic and carcinogenic.
 - * Irradiation creates a false impression of freshness. It kills the beneficial bacteria and creates an ideal environment for the proliferation of botulism and grain aflatoxins, two of the deadliest known food toxins. Although irradiation kills 90-99% of the harmful bacteria, those that survive will be radiation-resistant and ever more virulent.
2. Should labeling requirements expire at a specific date in the future?
I strongly urge that the labeling requirements and radura symbol for irradiated foods should not expire at any time in the future. As there is increased scientific evidence that irradiated food presents definite hazards in addition to altering and destroying the nutritional value of food. As the long term impact of eating irradiated foods is unknown, it is essential that clear labeling be continued in order to protect the consumer. If our government agencies are not going to adequately protect our food supply, they least they can do, is to provide us with the information that we need to make an intelligent informed choice for ourselves in order to provide safe food for our families.

Sincerely,

98N 1038

Anne Cranmer

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